

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8670
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR, CY

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER REFUTES CHARGE THAT US ARMY ATTACHE
INVOLVED IN CYPRUS INVASION

1. IN EARLY DECEMBER, THREE DEPUTIES OF THE PRO-MOSCOW
GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY -- EXTERIOR SUBMITTED A WRITTEN QUESTION
IN THE PARLIAMENT ASKING IF THE INFORMATION WERE TRUE
WHICH APPEARED IN THE LEFTIST POLITICAL MAGAZINE "ANTI"
STORY CHARGING US ARMY ATTACHE JESSUP, STATIONED IN NICOSIA,
WITH COOPERATING WITH THE TURKISH INVASION. ACCORDING TO
THE ARTICLE, THE DEPUTIES SAID IN THEIR QUESTION, JESSUP
FURNISHED THE TURKISH FORCES WITH ROUTES FOR THE
INVASION AND ARRANGED FOR THE TURKISH GENERAL DEMIRAL TO
LAND AT THE AIRPORT AT NICOSIA. THE COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN JESSUP AND DEMIREL WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN INTER-
CEPTED BY A CANADIAN UNFICYP UNIT AND SENT TO THE
CANADIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

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2. GREEK DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF, IN REPLY, CATE-
GORICALLY REFUTED THE CHARGES. IN HIS ANSWER WHICH WAS
MADE PUBLIC YESTERDAY, HE STATED THERE IS "ABSOLUTELY NO
DATA TO INDICATE COOPERATION BY THE U.S. ARMY ATTACHE
IN CYPRUS WITH THE TURKISH MILITARY INVASION IN 1974."
NOR WAS THERE NOW, HE SAID, ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT

INFORMATION THAT THE CANADIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAD "SIGNALS" WHICH REVEALED THIS COOPERATION, NOTING THAT HE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO INQUIRE OF THE CANADIANS IF THEY HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE COOPERATION OF "ANY FOREIGNERS". FINALLY, HE STATED THAT THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVENTS IN CYPRUS WOULD BE PROSECUTED AS SOON AS THE REASONS WHICH HAD LED TO THE PRESENT REPRIEVE CEASED TO EXIST. (THIS LAST RESPONSE IS A REITERATION OF THE GOG'S STANDING POLICY OF SEEKING TO POSTPONE THE PROSECUTION OF THOSE WHO MIGHT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE CYPRUS TRAGEDY IN ORDER TO AVOID, DURING THE PRESENT DIFFICULT PERIOD IN GREEK RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, THE EMOTIONALISM AND NATIONAL DIVISIVENESS WHICH ARE CERTAIN TO SURROUND SUCH TRIALS.)

3. COMMENT: AVEROFF'S STATEMENT, WIDELY IF NOT PROMINENTLY PLAYED IN THE GREEK PRESS, IS ANOTHER OF HIS CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON CYPRUS AND TO COUNTER THE GENERALLY NEGATIVE POPULAR IMAGE OF THE ALLEGED U.S. ROLE.

MILLS

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